GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services - Chittoor District - Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District (Retd) for violation of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 – Departmental proceedings under rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules, 1991 - Articles of charges – Issued.
****

REVENUE (VIGILANCE.III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 25 **Dated: 22-01-2021**
Read:-

G.O.Ms.No.15, Revenue (Vig.III) Department, Dt:22.01.2021

--***--

ORDER:

In pursuance of the sanction accorded in the reference read above, it is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District (Retd) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of charges (Annexure—I). A statement of imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each article of charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which, and a list of witnesses by whom, the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure – III & IV).

3. Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, (Retd) is directed to submit, within 10 days of the receipt of this order, a written statement of his defense.

4. Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, (Retd) is informed that an enquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charges as are not admitted. He should therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, (Retd) is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense on or before the date specified in Para—3 above, further action will be processed based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, (Retd) is invited to Rule 24 of A.P.C.S (Conduct) Rules 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings it will be presumed that Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, (Retd) is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

V. USHARANI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District (Retd) through the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Vijayawada.

Copy to:
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Collector & District Magistrate, Srikakulam District.
The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Secretary to Commissioner, APVC, Velagapudi, Amaravati
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE —I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RONANKI GOPALARATNAM, TAHSILDAR, SOMPETA MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT (RETD)

***

Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, S/o Late Narayanappadu, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District joined as Government servant on 25.04.1982 as Junior Assistant and on consequent promotions, he rose to the rank of Tahsildar and worked as such in Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District from 10.07.2014 to January, 2019. While working as such, he committed grave misconduct in as much as:-

CHARGE-1:-

Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District (now retired) processed the file relating to the application of Sri Tumula Vinod Krishna of Sompeta without making any endorsement on that application.

CHARGE-2:-

Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District (now retired) failed to maintain any register for downloading applications from Mee-seva portal and for endorsing the same to the concerned VROs for getting enquiry reports.

CHARGE-3:-

Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District (now retired) failed to conduct meeting on the Mondays after 21.12.2018 i.e. on 07.01.2019, 14.01.2019 and 21.01.2019 to know the progress on pending enquiry pertaining to Mee-seva applications but the date was changed from 21.12.2018 to 21.01.2019 at Page No. 130 in that meeting register through overwriting.

Thus, Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, S/o Late Narayanappadu, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of member of service and thereby contravened Rule 3(1) & 3(2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 r/w Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

V. USHARANI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE —II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT, MISBEHAVIOUR, LACK OF SUPERVISION & GROSS DERELICTION OF DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RONANKI GOPALARATNAM, TAHSILDAR, SOMPETA MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT (RETD)

***

Sri Ronanki Gopalaratnam, S/o Late Narayanappadu, Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District joined in Government service on 25.04.1982 as Junior Assistant, and on consequent promotions he rose to the rank of Tahsildar and worked as such in Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District from 10.07.2014 to January, 2019. He born on 22.07.1959 and he retired from service on 31.07.2019 on attaining the age of superannuation. He is here-in-after called as Retired Government servant.

CHARGE-1:-

That he retired employee processed the files relating to the application of Sri Tumula Vinod Krishna of Sompeta without making any endorsement on that application.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

That on a complaint submitted by Sri Tumula Vinod Krishna, Sompeta Village and Mandal, Srikakulam District, a case in Cr.No. 01/RCT-ACB/SKL/2019 dated 23.01.2019 u/s 7(a) of P.C. (Amendment) Act, 2018 of ACB, Srikakulam Range was registered against Sri G.Krishna Das, Village Revenue Officer, Jinkibhadra Cluster, I/c VRO, Baruva Cluster, Sompeta Mandal for demanding bribe amount of Rs.10,000/- from the complainant for mutation of the records of that land and for issuance of title deed cum e-passbook.

On 23.01.2019 at about 12.45 hours, Sri G.Krishna Das, VRO, Jinkibhadra Cluster, I/c VRO, Baruva Cluster, Sompeta Mandal was trapped when he further demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.10,000/- as bribe from the complainant at the open place in front of the Mandal Surveyor's room in Tahsildar's Office, Sompeta Mandal.

During the trap, a made up file relating to the application of the complainant (Sri T.Vinod Krishna) containing 12 sheets seized from the possession of Sri G.Krishna Das, VRO. On perusal of the file it is noticed that there is no endorsement of the Tahsildar, Sompeta on the application of the complainant. According to the reply of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tekkali through his letter Rc.No. 01/2019/J dated 03.06.2019 intimated that as per instructions of CCLA, AP, Hyderabad vide Lr. II/ROR2/712B/2016 dated 02.02.2016, the Tahsildar concerned should download the Mee-seva application and the same should be endorsed to the concerned Village Revenue Officer after entering the same in the Mee-seva register. But the application of the Sri T.Vinod Krishna which was seized from the VRO clearly established that the retired employee did not make any written endorsement to the VRO on that application. The same was admitted by the Retired employee before the mediators at the time of trap and the same was entered in the post trap proceedings.

CHARGE-2:-

That the retired employee failed to maintain any register for downloading applications from Mee-seva portal and for endorsing the same to the concerned VROs for getting enquiry reports.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

During the course of trap, at the time of Mediators Report-II, no records were find out with regard to the Mee-seva issues and the retired employee himself admitted before the mediators that no records were maintained with regard to the Mee-seva issues.

(Contd…Page.2)

According to the reply of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tekkali through his letter Rc.No.01/2019/J dated 03.06.2019 intimated that as per instructions of CCLA, AP, Hyderabad vide Lr.II/ROR2/712B/2016 dated 02.02.2016, the Tahsildar concerned should download the Mee-seva application and the same should be endorsed to the concerned Village Revenue Officer after entering the same in the Mee-seva register, but it was not maintained by the retired employee.

CHARGE-3:-

That the retired employee failed to conduct meeting on the Mondays after 21.12.2018 i.e. on 07.01.2019, 14.01.2019 and 21.01.2019 to know the progress on pending enquiry pertaining to Mee-seva applications but the date was changed from 21.12.2018 to 21.01.2019 at Page No.130 in that meeting register through overwriting.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

During the course of trap, at the time of Mediators Report-II, Original meeting register of the office of Tahsildar, Sompeta was seized from the office of Tahsildar, Sompeta Mandal.

On perusal of the meeting register which was seized by ACB officials during the course of post-trap proceedings clearly proved that no meeting was conducted by the retired employee after 21.12.2018 but there was a overwriting at page No.130 in that register to change the date from 21.12.2018 to 21.01.2019 at page No.130. Perusal of that register showing the signatures of the staff who attended that meeting clearly established that the meeting was conducted on 21.12.2018 as some of the staff had marked the date of 21.12.2018 along with their signatures in the register.

According to the reply of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tekkali through his letter Rc.No. 01/2019/J dated 03.06.2019 intimated that as per instructions of CCLA, AP, Hyderabad vide Lr.II/ROR2/712B/2016 dated 02.02.2016, the Tahsildar concerned should review the progress on enquiry of the Mee-seva applications on every Monday during the Village Revenue Officers meeting hold by him at his office but the retired employee failed to conduct the meeting after 21.12.2018.

Thus, the retired employee by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, gross dereliction and misconduct of duty and exhibited conduct unbecoming of a Government Servant and thereby contravened Rule 3(1) & 3(2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 r/w A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

Thus, the retired employee rendered himself liable for departmental action for major penalty.

V. USHARANI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RONANKI GOPALARATNAM, TAHSILDAR, SOMPETA MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT (RETD) IS PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

***

1. Mediators Report-II dt 23.01.2019.
2. Copy of made up files relating to the application of Sri Tumula Vinod Krishna of Sompeta Village and Mandal containing 12 sheets seized from the possession of Sri Gunta Krishna Das, VRO, Jinkibhadra Cluster, I/c VRO, Baruva Cluster, Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam District seized in Cr.No. 01/RCT-ACB/SKL/2019 of ACB, Srikakulam Range.
3. Copy of meeting register of office of Tahsildar, Sompeta seized in Cr.No. 01/RCT-ACB/SKL/2019 of ACB, Srikakulam Range.
4. Copy of the letter Rc.No. 01/2019/J/dt 03.06.2019 of the Sub Collector's office, Tekkali.

V. USHARANI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RONANKI GOPALARATNAM, TAHSILDAR, SOMPETA MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT (RETD) IS PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

***

1. Sri Tumula Vinod Krishna, S/o Late Laxminarayana Pathro, age 38 years, Sompeta Village and Mandal, Srikakulam District.
2. Sri Budida Kondala Rao, S/o Nookaraju, age 44 years, Asst. Labour Officer, Circle-II, Srikakulam. R/o Plot No. 47, 1st lane, Santhinagar, Srikakulam.
3. Sri amjuru Venkataramana, S/o Suryanarayana, age 43 years, Jr. Asst., O/o Asst. Labour Officer, Circle-I, Srikakulam, R/o 4th ward, Balaga, Srikakulam.
4. Sri K.Rajendra Rao, Dy. Supdt. of Police, Anti Corruption Bureau, Srikakulam Range.
5. Sri P.Srinivasa Rao, Inspector of Police, Anti Corruption Bureau, Srikakulam Range.

V. USHARANI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER